What is claimed is:

1. A machine-readable medium that stores a pricing database accessible by a computer, the pricing database organized according to a data structure which defines:

a plurality of representations of food products; and

a plurality of price ranges, each corresponding to a respective one of the plurality of food products and each defining a maximum price and a minimum price for which the corresponding food product may be sold in exchange for a round-up amount associated with a purchase.

2. A machine-readable medium that stores a pricing database accessible by computer, the pricing database organized according to a data structure which defines:

a plurality of age categories corresponding to a food product; and

a plurality of price ranges, each corresponding to a respective one of the plurality of age categories and defining a maximum price and a minimum price for which the corresponding food product may be sold in exchange for a round-up amount associated with a purchase when an age of the food product corresponds to the one of the plurality of age categories.

3. A method, comprising:

determining a time until expiration of a food product;

setting a price range of the food product based on the time until expiration; and

storing an indication that the food product may be offered in exchange for a round-up amount if the round-up amount is within the price range.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the price range defines a minimum price and a maximum price.

5. A method, comprising:

generating a purchase price of a purchase;

generating a rounded price;

calculating a round-up amount, the round amount being a difference between the purchase price and the rounded price;

identifying a food product and a corresponding price range of the food product, wherein the round-up amount is within the price range; and

offering the food product in exchange for the round-up amount.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of identifying a food product comprises:

determining a first product, the first product corresponding to a first price range wherein the round-up amount is within the first price range;

determining a second product, the second product corresponding to a second price range wherein the round-up amount is within the second price range; and

selecting one of the first and the second product to offer in exchange for the round-up amount.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of selecting comprises:

selecting one of the first and the second product to offer in exchange for the round-up amount in a random fashion.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of selecting comprises:

receiving at least one characteristic of the purchase; and

selecting one of the first and second product to offer in exchange for the round-up amount based on the at least one characteristic.

9. The method of clam 8, wherein the step of receiving at least one characteristic of the purchase comprises:

receiving an indication of at least one of (i) a number of customers associated with the purchase, (ii) at least one product included in the purchase, (iii) an age of a customer associated with the purchase, (iv) a weight of a customer

associated with the purchase, and (v) a gender of a customer associated with the purchase.

10. A method, comprising:

determining a status of at least one characteristic of a food product, the at least one characteristic being indicative of the age of the food product:

setting a price range of the food product based on the status, wherein the price range defines a minimum price and a maximum price;

generating a purchase price of a purchase;

generating a rounded price;

calculating a round-up amount, the round amount being a difference between the purchase price and the rounded price; and

causing the food product to be offered in exchange for the round-up amount if the round-up amount is within the price range.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the at least one characteristic comprises at least one of (i) a temperature of the food product, (ii) a staleness of the food product, and (iii) a sogginess of the food product.

12. A method, comprising:

determining a time until expiration of a food component;

causing the food component to be made into a food product if the time until expiration is less than a predetermined threshold;

setting a minimum price for the food product based on the time until expiration of the food component; and

causing the food product to be offered in exchange for a round-up amount, wherein the round-up amount is a difference between a purchase price and a rounded price of a purchase.

13. A method, comprising:

determining a time until expiration of a food component;

determining a food product corresponding to the food component;

setting a price range for the food product, wherein the price range defines a minimum price and a maximum price; and

causing an offer to exchange the food product for a round-up amount if the round-up amount is within the price range to be output, wherein the round-up amount is a difference between a purchase price and a rounded price of a purchase.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

causing the food component to be made into the food product and provided in exchange for the round-up amount if the offer is accepted.

15. A method, comprising:

determining a time until expiration of at least one food component of a food product;

determining a time until expiration of the food product based on the time until expiration of the at least one food component;

setting a price range for the food product, wherein the price range defines a minimum price and a maximum price; and

causing an offer to exchange the food product for a round-up amount if the round-up amount is within the price range to be output, wherein the round-up amount is a difference between a purchase price and a rounded price of a purchase.

16. An apparatus comprising:

a storage device; and

a processor in communication with the storage device, the storage device storing a program for controlling the processor; and

the processor operative with the program to:

determine a time until expiration of a food product;

set a price range of the food product based on the time until expiration; and

store an indication that the food product may be offered in exchange for a round-up amount if the round-up amount is within the price range.

17. An apparatus, comprising:
a storage device; and
a processor in communication with the storage device,
the storage device storing a program for controlling the processor; and
the processor operative with the program to:
generate a purchase price of a purchase;
generate a rounded price;
calculate a round-up amount, the round amount being a difference between the purchase price and the rounded price;
identify a food product and a corresponding price range of the food product, wherein the round-up amount is within the price range; and
offer the food product in exchange for the round-up amount.

18. An apparatus, comprising:
a storage device; and
a processor in communication with the storage device,
the storage device storing a program for controlling the processor; and
the processor operative with the program to:
determine a status of at least one characteristic of a food product, the at least one characteristic being indicative of the age of the food product:
set a price range of the food product based on the status, wherein the price range defines a minimum price and a maximum price;
generate a purchase price of a purchase;
generate a rounded price;
calculate a round-up amount, the round amount being a difference between the purchase price and the rounded price; and
cause the food product to be offered in exchange for the round-up amount if the round-up amount is within the price range.

19. An apparatus, comprising:
a storage device; and
a processor in communication with the storage device,

the storage device storing a program for controlling the processor; and

the processor operative with the program to:

determine a time until expiration of a food component;

cause the food component to be made into a food product if the time until expiration is less than a predetermined threshold;

set a minimum price for the food product based on the time until expiration of the food component; and

cause the food product to be offered in exchange for a round-up amount, wherein the round-up amount is a difference between a purchase price and a rounded price of a purchase.

20. An apparatus, comprising:

a storage device; and

a processor in communication with the storage device,

the storage device storing a program for controlling the processor; and

the processor operative with the program to:

determine a time until expiration of a food component;

determine a food product corresponding to the food component;

set a price range for the food product, wherein the price range defines a minimum price and a maximum price; and

cause an offer to exchange the food product for a round-up amount if the round-up amount is within the price range to be output, wherein the round-up amount is a difference between a purchase price and a rounded price of a purchase.

21. A medium encoded with a program for implementing a method, said program for directing a device to perform the steps of:

determining a time until expiration of a food product;

setting a price range of the food product based on the time until expiration; and

storing an indication that the food product may be offered in exchange for a round-up amount if the round-up amount is within the price range.

22. A medium encoded with a program for implementing a method, said program for directing a device to perform the steps of:

generating a purchase price of a purchase;

generating a rounded price;

calculating a round-up amount, the round amount being a difference between the purchase price and the rounded price;

identifying a food product and a corresponding price range of the food product, wherein the round-up amount is within the price range; and

offering the food product in exchange for the round-up amount.

23. A medium encoded with a program for implementing a method, said program for directing a device to perform the steps of:

determining a status of at least one characteristic of a food product, the at least one characteristic being indicative of the age of the food product:

setting a price range of the food product based on the status, wherein the price range defines a minimum price and a maximum price;

generating a purchase price of a purchase;

generating a rounded price;

calculating a round-up amount, the round amount being a difference between the purchase price and the rounded price; and

causing the food product to be offered in exchange for the round-up amount if the round-up amount is within the price range.

24. A medium encoded with a program for implementing a method, said program for directing a device to perform the steps of:

determining a time until expiration of a food component;

causing the food component to be made into a food product if the time until expiration is less than a predetermined threshold;

setting a minimum price for the food product based on the time until expiration of the food component; and

causing the food product to be offered in exchange for a round-up amount, wherein the round-up amount is a difference between a purchase price and a rounded price of a purchase.

25. A medium encoded with a program for implementing a method, said program for directing a device to perform the steps of:

determining a time until expiration of a food component;

determining a food product corresponding to the food component;

setting a price range for the food product, wherein the price range defines a minimum price and a maximum price; and

causing an offer to exchange the food product for a round-up amount if the round-up amount is within the price range to be output, wherein the round-up amount is a difference between a purchase price and a rounded price of a purchase.